

Ela Township News



A Quarterly Publication for the Ela Community

Ela Township serves all or part of Villages of Barrington, Deer Park, Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer, Lake Zurich, Long Grove, North Barrington & unincorporated Mundelein

Vol. 15 No. 3

December 2003

HAPPY HOLIDAYS DINNER DANCE

On Friday, December 5, at Saint Francis de Sales Church, Ela Township Elected Officials, with the generous support of local sponsors, proudly hosted this year's Happy Holiday Dinner Dance for township residents age 55 and older.

The Ela Township Officials who served the dinner and also helped to pass out the door prizes were Kimberly Tinerella, Township Supervisor; Bill Kruckenberg, Township Highway Commissioner; Pamela J. Hoffman, Township Assessor; Lucy Prouty, Township Clerk (also known as Mrs. Claus); and Ela Township Trustees, Mimi Black, Brian Burch, and Michael Sullivan.

"I'm proud to work with the Township Officials who are so dedicated to this fine and growing tradition!" said Sue Neuschel, Ela Township Director of Adult and Senior Services. "Close to 400 people enjoyed a big turkey dinner

with all the trimmings, and listened to the swingin' sounds of Marcy Night & The Night Express Big Band. We were thrilled with the addition this year of the Chicago Swedish Men's Glee Club." continued Director Neuschel. "Their wonderful voices contributed greatly to the festivities of the evening." Ken Michaels, sang a beautiful solo, "Bless This House." Each of the 24 glee club members, in addition to the gift of their singing, contributed a gift for the door prizes.

Like the strange disappearance of Clark Kent whenever Superman is around, Trustee Mike Sullivan could not be found about the same time that an early surprise visit from Santa Claus occurred. Santa graciously accepted the duty of pulling the raffle numbers from a bowl; gift and non-gift recipients alike uttered not a single complaint, knowing that Santa's

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Left to right: Pam Hoffman, Lucy Prouty, and Bill Kruckenberg, a reindeer helper, Mrs. Claus, and Santa's helper, respectively, pause for a moment from their assisting duties at the Happy Holidays Dinner Dance.



This year a welcome addition to the festivities was the singing of the Chicago Swedish Men's Glee Club, including our own Trustee Brian Burch (first row standing, third from left).



Dancing to the swingin' sounds of Marcie Night and the Night Express Big Band was a fun highlight to the evening.

CARIBBEAN... HOT, HOT, HOT!



On Sunday, February 29, when Chicagoland promises nothing but cold, cold, cold, escape winter and enjoy the hot sounds of the tropics during this family event co-sponsored by Ela Township and Ela Area Public Library. In addition to the hot sounds of the Tom Carey Band who will play their "Caribbean Soul," tasty ethnic refreshments will be provided by Julio's Latin Café.

The Tom Carey Band have become mainstays of the Midwest music scene and across the country. Their engaging mix of soulful and imaginative sounds is the next best thing to being somewhere warm ... they've played at Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville and

have shared the stage with the Doobie Brothers, Charlie Daniels, America, Bad Company, 38 Special, The Lovin' Spoonful, The Guess Who, The Spinners, Koko Taylor, and many others.

Space is limited, so you must pre-register by calling Ela Township at 1-847-438-9160, or the Ela Area Public Library at 1-847-438-3433. Please bring a canned good or non-perishable box food item for admission to this special event held at the Ela Area Public Library, Sunday, February 29, 2:30 p.m. Food donations will help to feed needy residents from the local food pantry located at St. Francis de Sales Church.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS DINNER DANCE

Continued from page 1
list of naughty and nice was not yet fully completed.

A sing-a-long helped provide another memorable part of the festive evening. The band played the holiday favorite, "The 12 Days of Christmas," while tables of guests were assigned to sing one of the 12 days. A friendly battle ensued, and it was difficult to say which table sang louder or had more fun.

The dancing, the music, the singing, the sled full of prizes – Santa's unexpected visit – the delightful holiday dinner catered by Maravela's of Fox Lake, all helped to add up to a much anticipated and appreciated evening of fun and entertainment.

In the spirit of the season, many thanks are deserved by a great many people who helped plan such a large event and to the officials, Township staff, their family members who helped, the "55 Plus" program staff, the Highway Department, and all the volunteers who helped provide for the success of the Ela Township seniors' evening. Special mention also goes to the Ela Township bus drivers, all the door prize contributors, and the key sponsors, The Village Bank & Trust, The Cambridge Bank, Cherie Smith Zurek of Re/Max Unlimited Northwest, The Foglia YMCA, John Sfire of Fidelity Group, Barn Nursery & Landscape Center for the poinsettias, and to Saint Francis de Sales Church who graciously provided the use of their hall for this special event.

A wonderful time was had by all.



Photos by Mimi Black, Michael Talbett, and Fred Neuschel.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

SPECIAL EVENTS SPECIAL EVENTS SPECIAL EVENTS



HERE'S WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR DROP-IN CAFÉ!!

On Mondays and Tuesdays, we have opened a Drop-in Café at the Ela Township Senior Center. We will not be taking advance reservations for these meals. Members are encouraged to drop in before or after activities to enjoy soup and sandwich on Mondays; and Hot Dog Day on Tuesdays. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m.

- Monday, January 5 – Chili, salad, cake
- Monday, January 12 – Chicken Noodle Soup, Bologna Sandwich, cake
- Monday, January 19 – Peasant Soup, Turkey Sandwich, cookies
- Monday, January 26 – Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, cake

On Tuesdays, Hot Dog & fixings, chips, pickles, salads, and special desserts are served.

Barbara Rinella Book Review, "Every Second Counts" & "Spotted In France," Ela Township Senior Center, Monday, January 5th, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Lance Armstrong says in his new book, "So, it looks as though I'm going to live You ask yourself ... what will I do? What's the highest and best use of myself?" Barbara Rinella will put on the yellow jersey to tell the story of the five-time Tour de France winner and cancer survivor, Lance Armstrong. It is

inspirational ... it is about peddling hard uphill. It is about a father who loves his children and a marriage of beautiful moments that is struggling. It is about teamwork and friendship and the "obligation of the cured" to help others. As Armstrong describes his near-death experience with cancer, he says, I went to the brink ... and for some reason I was 'pitched back.' Suffering, I was beginning to think, was essential to a good life ... it's a great enhancer." What an attitude. A strenuous bicycle race is a pretty neat metaphor for life – uphill, downhill, falling off, getting back on track, becoming acutely aware that "every second counts."

Of course, much of the book is seeing France on a bike, so Ms. Rinella naturally wished to add true levity with another book with a French/bike theme to this program. Gregory Edmont's "Spotted In France" is a delightful memoir of a young American in France. He feels a bit snubbed by the French until he buys a dog – a Dalmatian, hence the title. What a difference a dog can make in one's life – especially in France. There is love, there is adventure, and there is also a bike. See the similarities? Enjoy the ride! We will all finish winners!

Special Invitation to Dinner and Girls' Basketball Game, Lake Zurich High School, 300 Church St., Lake Zurich, Ill., Tuesday, January 13; dinner, 5:30 p.m.; game, 7 p.m. to approximately 8:30 p.m.



Principal Scott Kasik and Lake Zurich High School invite Ela Township "55 Plus" members to be their

guests for dinner. The menu consists of pasta, pizza, salad, and beverage. The dinner will be followed by the basketball game and special reserved seating will be provided. Enjoy the energy and enthusiasm of youth, an exciting high-spirited girls basketball game. The dinner and sports event is free. Because space is limited, you must pre-register. A detailed information packet will be mailed to registrants.

Cuisine Club, Lake County Museum, 27277 Forest Preserve Drive, Wauconda, Thursday, January 29, Jim May, Storyteller, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



First, we will enjoy a tour of the Lake County Forest Preserve Museum. This museum is a near-by hidden jewel. The Discovery Museum is one of the ten most popular destination spots in Lake County. Take a roller coaster ride through time in Lake County; visit the hands-on interactive exhibits of Lake County in a fun, learning environment as well as the extensive Curt Teich Postcard Archives.

Then, we enjoy a gourmet boxed lunch including a choice of two options: 1., Turkey Club, a turkey club double-decker sandwich with cheddar cheese and crisp bacon, includes gourmet salad, fresh fruit cup, dessert bar, and chocolate mint.; or 2., Beef Eaters Wrap, a seasoned roast beef, Romaine lettuce, tomato, red onion, cheddar cheese, and horseradish sauce

served in a whole wheat tortilla, which includes gourmet salad, fresh fruit cup, dessert bar, and chocolate mint.

Following lunch we will enjoy the nationally renowned entertainer, Jim May. Jim May is a storyteller who speaks in the natural, matter-of-fact style of the horse traders, and small-town raconteurs who populated our neighbor rural McHenry County. He tells original stories of the tiny Catholic farming community of Spring Grove. These hilarious and touching stories range from "How To Become Most Valuable Altar Boy" to horse trading tales and heart warming memories of family life.

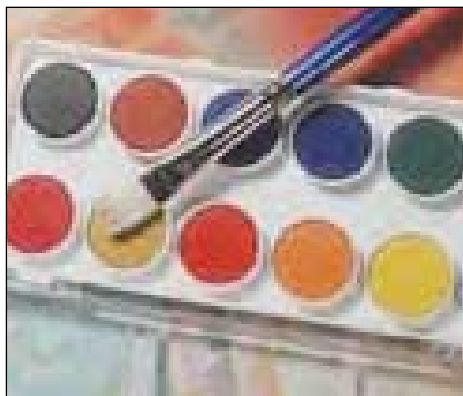
The cost for this luncheon and show is \$10 per member and \$13 per guest. You must pre-register for this event. Directions will be mailed to the participants.

Wednesday Senior Club, Ela Township Senior Center, Foglia YMCA, All Wednesdays in January, 12 noon - 4 p.m.

The Wednesday Senior Club, under the umbrella of "55 Plus," has a different format than other groups that meet regularly at the Senior Center. The Wednesday Senior Club meets every Wednesday in the Senior Center from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Fellowship and games are available at these meetings. Elected Advisory Council Members select monthly outings and special events. Trips are to local destinations on school buses donated by Lake Zurich and are reasonably priced to members. There are membership requirements and fees. For further information call Jake Reiser, President, at 1-847-540-0307. All members of the Wednesday Senior Club must also be registered as members of the Ela Township "55 Plus."

EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION

Watercolor Painting, Intermediate & Advanced, Wednesdays, 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., January 7, 14, 21, & 28, \$60.

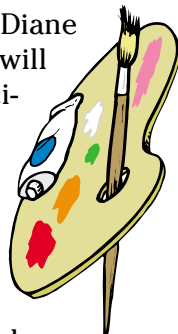


Carol Sackschewsky is a long time instructor at Main Street Gallery and a juried artist. Instruction will focus on color and composition. Subjects include landscape and still life. Materials

are not included. Participants pay monthly, at the rate of \$15 per scheduled class each month. Out of Ela Township persons pay an additional \$5 per month. You must pre-register.

Art Class, Tuesdays, December 9 & 23, and January 6 & 20, Ela Township Senior Center in the Foglia YMCA, 10:30 a.m.

Our very own Diane Joseph Feldman will teach basic principles of drawing and sketching, colored pencils and watercolors. We have a few openings for this special class. There is a \$5 monthly fee. You must pre-register.



Life Story Writing, Village Bank & Trust Board Room, 444 N. Rand Road, North Barrington, Wednesdays, January 14 & 28, 10 a.m. – 12 noon



Recalling the past, informing the present and guiding the future, is the theme of our writing your life-story class. Members have fun writing and sharing anecdotes of their lives while learning how to focus and organize the stories. These writings will be cherished gifts to their families. This ongoing class meets twice a month and may be joined at any time. There is a \$5.00 monthly fee.

"Bladder, Bladder, What's the Matter?", Women Care, Center for Bladder Control, Monday, January 12, Ela Township Senior Center, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Urinary incontinence is the involuntary loss of urine. More than 15 million women are affected. This is a physical disorder which can be treated and usually cured. Treatments include non-invasive, non-surgical therapies, as well as traditional pharmaceutical and minor surgical approaches. Barb Mielhausen will share all the up-to-date therapies available including information on food that irritates the bladder as well as prevention techniques. There is no charge for this seminar, but you must pre-register.

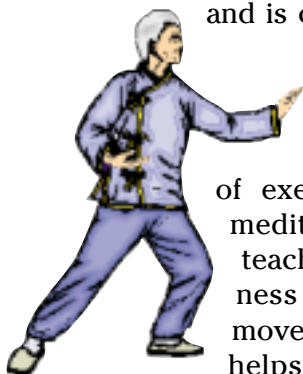
SENIOR PROGRAMS

SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

JANUARY 2004 CALENDAR

Tai Chi, Ela Township Senior Center, Foglia YMCA, All Thursdays, in January, (except January 1st), 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Tai Chi is a graceful, balance related movement and is considered one of the most important forms of exercise and meditation. It teaches awareness of body movements and helps discover harmony of mind and spirit. This practice improves circulation and strengthens bone and muscle. Sylvester Marshall is the Tai Chi instructor. The monthly fee of \$15.00 must be paid in advance. There is no refund if a participant is unable to attend all the sessions.



Swinging Seniors Exercise Class, All Tuesdays in January, and first and third Fridays in each month., 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

This program is offered in conjunction with the YMCA. Kim Piers, Health Enhancement Director of the Foglia YMCA, leads the class in light stretching and walking exercises to music. This class is held in the Ela Township Senior Center. The monthly fee is \$12.00. Pre-registration is required. There is no refund if a participant is unable to attend all the sessions.

Commit To Be Fit Level I, Foglia YMCA Wellness Center, All Tuesdays and Fridays in January, 1 - 3 p.m.

Commit To Be Fit is a six session orientation and supervised workout on the exercise

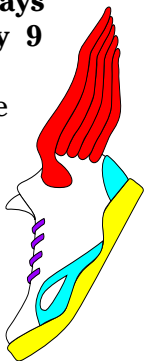
machines in the Wellness Center of the Foglia YMCA. This program is geared for mature adults, who may or may not be familiar with fitness equipment and wish motivational coaching. The workout is designed to the individual's goals and abilities. Commit To Be Fit is held on Tuesdays and Fridays between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The fee is \$15.00 per participant. Members must pre-register. These checks must be made out to the Foglia YMCA and turned in at the front desk of the YMCA.

Commit To Be Fit Level II, Foglia YMCA, Wellness Center, All Tuesdays and Fridays in January, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Members who have successfully completed the first Commit To Be Fit six week training course may continue to use the Fitness Center and machines on Tuesdays and Fridays between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. There is a \$15.00 non-refundable monthly fee for this activity. These checks should be made out to the Foglia YMCA and turned in at the front desk at the YMCA.

Open Track, Ela Township Senior Center in the Foglia YMCA, all Wednesdays & Fridays in January 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Participants are invited to walk the Foglia YMCA's open track in the gym. Members are asked to sign in at the Senior Center first. There is no fee for this program, thanks to generous support of the Foglia YMCA.



- ☐ Art Class, Tues., January 6 & 20, \$5.00 cost per month (Must pay for total month)
- ☐ Barbara Rinella Book Review, Mon. January 5, \$5.00
- ☐ Bladder Control, Monday, January 12, FREE
- ☐ Bridge Group, All Tues., \$1.00 donation at door
- ☐ Care Coach, Tues., January 13, FREE
- ☐ Creating the Wardrobe, Mon., January 19, \$1.00
- ☐ Commit To Be Fit I, All Tuesdays & Fridays (Pay YMCA)
- ☐ Commit To Be Fit II, Tuesdays & Fridays, (Pay YMCA)
- ☐ Dinner and Girls' Basketball Game, Tuesday, January 13, FREE
- ☐ Italian American Reconciliation Play, Thunder Bay Grille, Wed., January 28, \$36.50 & \$40.50
- ☐ Lake County Museum, Thurs., January 29, \$10.00 per member \$13.00 per guest
- ☐ Life Story Writing, Wed., Jan. 14 & 28, \$5.00
- ☐ Lunch Bunch Super Bingo, All Thurs.
- ☐ Naprapathy, Thurs., Jan. 22, \$3.00 donation suggested
- ☐ Open Track Walking, All Wednesdays & Fridays, FREE
- ☐ Poker Group, All Tuesdays, FREE
- ☐ Senior Book Discussion, Mon., January 26, FREE
- ☐ Swinging Seniors Exercise, All Tuesdays, and 1st & 3rd Friday, \$12.00 monthly fee
- ☐ Tai Chi, All Thurs., \$15.00 cost per month (Must pay for total month)
- ☐ Water Color Night Class., All Wednesday evenings, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m., \$15.00 charge per session for members
- ☐ Wednesday Senior Club, All Wednesdays (Call for information)
- ☐ Weight Watchers, All Wednesdays, \$9.95 per meeting



Name _____

Phone _____

GAMES GAMES GAMES & HEALTH HEALTH HEALTH

Lunch Bunch Super Bingo, all Thursdays in January (except January 1) Ela Township Senior Center in the Foglia YMCAThe Lunch Bunch will host a "Super Bingo" immediately following lunch. Special prizes will be awarded, such as store coupons, treats, and presents. A \$1.00 donation for Bingo will be collected.



Bridge Group, all Tuesdays in January Ela Township Senior Center in the Foglia YMCA, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

People with different skill levels are encouraged to come to this fun activity. Snacks will be provided.

There is a \$1.00 fee for this group. You need to sign up for this activity. If you have questions, please call Sue Neuschel at 847-438-9160.

Poker Group, All Tuesdays in January at Ela Township Senior Center in the Foglia YMCA, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Our poker group plays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you would like to eat lunch at the Center, please make reservations one week prior. There is no charge for this group and snacks will be provided. If you have questions, please call Nancy Newman or Sue Neuschel at 847-438-9160.

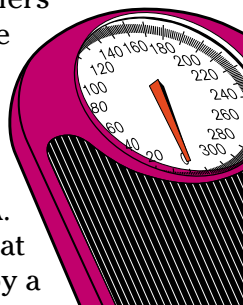
Naprapathy, Thursday, January 22, at Ela Township Senior Center in the Foglia YMCA, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Greg Shopshire from the Safe Waters Health Care Clinic in Lake

Zurich, will give free naprapathy sessions for members of Ela Township "55 Plus". Naprapathy helps with the joints, ligaments, and promotes circulation. There is no cost for this clinic but we ask that you pre-register. Drop-ins will be accepted after registrants are taken care of.

Weight Watchers, all Wednesdays in January, Ela Township Senior Center in the Foglia YMCA, 9 to 10 a.m.

Weight Watchers has found a home at the Ela Township Senior Center located at the Foglia YMCA. Weigh in begins at 9 a.m. followed by a



meeting conducted by Cyndi Smith. Weight Watchers provides a fun and safe atmosphere where you can learn to make changes to become a healthier, thinner new you. For information, call 1-800-651-6000. The cost per week is \$9.95, which is payable at the door.

Care Coach, Tuesdays, October 14, and November 11, Ela Township Senior Center in the Foglia YMCA, Lake Zurich, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Care Coach from Lake Forest will be screening blood pressure, blood sugar testing, lung function, and cholesterol, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.





From the Ela Township C.E.O. – Supervisor

Kimberly Tinerella

“The purpose of life,” wrote the great American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson, “is not to be happy, it is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” On this note, it’s that time of the year when we take time to reflect on the past, plan for the future and hope that our efforts are making a difference.

It all starts with a levy and every year the township adopts two levies, one for the unincorporated road district and the other for the Town of Ela. Last year’s assessed valuation of all Ela Township properties was \$1,656,459,033. We estimate next year’s total EAV being \$1,855,104,936 (this includes \$33,000,000 for new construction and on average a 10% increase for all existing properties).

The levy requested to support next year’s revenue needs for the Town of Ela will be about 5% higher than last year and the Road District will be asking for 10% more. The public hearing for the road district was held on December 16th.

The township’s annual budget process takes place during the winter and the adoption of the total budget is scheduled for March 2004. Last year we tripled the planned expenditures, over the prior year’s actual expenditures, primarily to use surplus funds to acquire land for another township park. Given the current status of our land acquisition plans, we will likely

see another record high budget in 2004, as we roll forward dollars allocated for land into next year’s budget.

The township’s Senior program, “Ela 55Plus,” and the OMNI Youth Services spaces located within the Foglia YMCA will require an additional \$30,000, per year, to cover our portion of the overall building operation expenses in 2004.

In an attempt to offset these added costs of operating our programs from the YMCA facility, we will consider merging our Ela55 Plus newsletter into the overall township newsletter. This year will be spending about \$45,000 on our newsletters and I see opportunities to cut that amount in half without sacrificing the process of keeping our residents informed about township services, programs and new directions. Also, the web site will be available soon and that too will help to get information out.

Our legal fees are increasing due to the land acquisition process and to offset these costs we are reducing the amount legal counsel used during our board meetings.

We are also reviewing the largest portion of the township’s budget and that is for personnel related costs. The use of part-time employees can drastically reduce our overall employee expenses because of the ever-increasing costs associated with benefits packages. Benefits can add as much as 50% to the cost of an employee’s salary to cover township paid health benefits, retirement plan contributions

and holiday/vacation/sick pay allowances. Additionally, part-time workers can allow us to bring more diversity and talent to our team at the township, while also providing added flexibility for staff coverage.

What matters the most is that we continue to look for ways to stretch your tax dollars. There are no easy answers, but you can feel confident that I will continue to present ideas to the board that allow us to run a more efficient and cost effective township government. Working more collaboratively with other taxing bodies, looking for more effective ways to provide needed services and by seeking alternative funding sources, can do this. This approach is something we can all be thankful for in the long run.

I’d now like to take this opportunity to say thank-you to Jessica McCarthy, our township youth director for “The Attic” for all that she did to start-up the township’s newest service for youth and wish her well in her new endeavors. I’d also like to formally welcome and thank Phil Carona for accepting the Youth Director position, as this allowed us to have a seamless transition up in “The Attic.”

Lastly, here is a very heart felt wish for a happy and healthy holiday season to all of our township employees and all of our 40,000+ township residents.

Happy Holidays,
Kimberly Tinerella
Ela Township Supervisor



From the Ela Township Clerk

Lucy Prouty

Merry Christmas, Ela Township residents!

I hope this finds everyone healthy and ready for the holiday season.

The high point of the holidays for myself is the Ela Township “55 Plus” Intergenerational Children’s Event at the Marriott Theater. This year we will see the Nutcracker on December 26, 2003, at 10 a.m. Last year, the Marriott performed Peter Pan and every time the alligator flew across the stage, my grandson flew into his mother’s lap. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your grandchildren and it has become a yearly tradition for my family.

Also by the time you receive this newsletter the Happy Holiday Senior Christmas Party will be a thing of the past and I hope everyone had

a jolly time.

There is still time to obtain special absentee ballot applications for the primary election on March 16, 2004:

- Application for a five year identification card by a voter who is permanently disabled or who is a resident of a nursing home or care facility.
- Temporarily absent student program enrollment, which is good for two years. You automatically receive an application for an Absentee Ballot at your school address prior to all elections during the two year period. Each summer, a letter will be sent to your home asking you to verify your current school address.

- And we also have Snowbird applications for the lucky people who go away for the win-

ter months and still want to vote absentee. This program is effective until you notify us to cancel.

All of the above applications are available at the Township Offices, 99 E Main Street, Lake Zurich.

Any questions, feel free to call me at 847-438-7826, or call the Lake County Absentee Voting Department at 847-377-2406. Absentee voting will begin at Ela Township Clerk’s Office on February 23, 2004, and ends on Monday March 15, 2004, at 5 p.m.

Wishing you all Happy and Healthy Holidays and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Love,
Lucy Prouty
Ela Township Clerk



Michael P. Sullivan

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to

all you residents of Ela Township. When this time of year comes around we like to look back over the year and see what we have accomplished. I think the Township Board has started to come together and if we will just let each person do the job they were elected to do we will

be successful. Because we are in the Holiday Season I’m going to mention one goal we have and that is the Township Park.

We have been working on this project for over two years. During this time we would ask people what they would like to see and have. We kept this information so when the time comes to make a decision we have this and many more ideas to go by. Well, was I thankful and surprised

on November 6, 2003, to see the article in the Lake Zurich Courier about what the residents want from parks. The Village of Lake Zurich paid North Carolina-based Management Learning Laboratories \$20,000 to conduct the survey. 85% of the respondents wanted more outdoor activities like walking paths, bike trails. 76% asked for more concerts in the park. The Township couldn’t be more on tar-

get for the 25 acre park we are proposing. We plan for a park for all ages with walking trails, bike trails, pavilions with cooking areas, small bridges to walk over creeks, training areas for pets, some ball fields, and more. You will all be proud of the park and it will be used by everyone.

Good Health to All!

Mike Sullivan



From Ela Township Highway Commissioner

Bill Kruckenberg

Winter is here. Is your mailbox sturdy enough? Please check your mailbox and post (in the unincorporated areas) to be sure they are secure. Snow and slush damage do not warrant replacement of box or post by us. They must be secured enough to take flying snow from the plow. If you have an expensive mailbox, you may want to replace it with an inexpensive one for the winter. If we hit the box with the plow, we will only replace it with a standard mailbox and wooden post.

As noted elsewhere in the newsletter, this year we will recycle Christmas trees at our garage from December 26 to January 18, 2004. Please remove all lights and decorations before dropping them off.

They will be mulched and residents can pick up the mulch or it will be used in our parks.

Ditch work has stopped due to the wet weather. We will continue the work next spring. In addition to snow removal, this winter we will resume brush removal and tree trimming.

You may have noticed the rebuilding of the soccer field at Knigge Park. Due to the late start of the project, it should be completed in the spring. The field's elevation was changed to prevent flooding as well as an irrigation system was installed to help the grass during the summer months. This field should be in prime condition for spring of 2005. The Highway Department also installed new under drains in the low area to

replace the existing 70+ year old collapsed tiles. This will elevate dirt settlement leaving the field and going into Echo Lake. Along with this we have also made the retention area larger than before. This too will help adjoining flood areas.

We have reduced the salt usage on our roads by 20% over the last two years by using liquid salt brine and is therefore friendlier to the environment. If we have icy conditions or a small snowfall (under 1") we will salt only. Snowfall over an inch will call for plowing and salting. Salt needs moisture to activate the melting process. We will be using liquid salt brine with standard salt on your roads most of the time. The liquid salt brine pre wets the salt as the salt leaves the spreader. This allows the salt to start working as soon as it hits the pavement. This solution also helps the salt from bouncing – keeping the salt on

the roads and out of the grassy areas. The liquid salt brine works best in warmer conditions (over 25° F.). Salt brine is also less damaging to roads and vehicles than calcium chloride. Under 25° F., we must use calcium chloride on our roads. This solution activates the salt much faster in the cold conditions. If you have a question about our snow removal, please call me at 1-847-438-2371 during business hours or email me at KruckenbergEla@aol.com.

A reminder to everyone: snow plowing is a vital service. Please do not interfere with snow trucks by parking on the streets, following too closely, passing unsafely or blocking intersections.

Happy Holidays and safe driving to all,

Bill Kruckenberg

Ela Township Highway Commissioner



From Ela Township Trustee

Mimi Black

Unbelievably, Halloween and Thanksgiving are already behind us and the Christmas season is here. Happy Holidays to everyone!

Each year at this time there is a Toys for Tots campaign. Officer Vince TeRonde of the Lake Zurich Police Department provided me with the following list of locations where you can drop off a new and unwrapped toy for a needy child:

Lake Zurich Village Hall
Lake Zurich Police Dept.
Lake Zurich Parks and Rec. Dept.
Lake Zurich American Legion Post,
Lake Zurich Lion's Club
Jewel Foods
Dominick's Foods
Wal-Mart
Cambridge Bank
Village Bank
Big Lots
Echo Products
Sears Hardware
1st Bank Plaza

Phil Carona is the new Youth Director at *The Attic*. He replaced the former director who moved out of state. Already Phil organized a bowling event and has lots of great ideas to help make the Attic a popular place after school.

The Township Board continues to move ahead in fulfilling the goal of providing Social Work Services to Ela residents. Many able candidates applied for the Social Worker position and several of the most qualified were invited to meet with the Township Board. I continue to urge the Board to extend an offer of employment soon so that this valuable program can be implemented

without further delay.

Before the end of 2003 let me take this opportunity to wish all Ela Township residents much health and happiness in the upcoming New Year. Whether through the Senior programs, Youth programs, PACE Bus Service, Highway or Assessor Departments, Township government will strive to provide benefits to you in 2004.

My best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year,

Mimi Black

Youth and Family Services Committee Chair



From Ela Township Trustee

Brian Burch

As Chairman of the Township Parks Committee I want to inform all of the residents of Ela Township that the Township Board will hold the course when it comes to acquiring 25 acres of land on the Southwest corner of Route 22 and Quentin Road. We will do what it takes to obtain this land for public use because it is the desire of the majority of our constituents and it is the right thing to do.

A survey recently completed by the Village of Lake Zurich has concluded that the vast majority of our neighbors want more parks in our community. Our youth programs could use more space for soccer and baseball fields. Neighbors who own dogs want space for their pets to be able to

exercise and run free. Folks are asking for walking and bicycle paths and we want places to take our families to camp or just have a family picnic or a walk with a grandchild. We want space to hold open air concerts in the Summer and space to pull a sled on a rope in the Winter.

When elected to serve as an Ela Township Trustee I committed myself to work for all of the residents of this township. I want to work with other elected officials both in the township and on the Boards of our Villages to build a better community for all of us. So to all of our neighbors who have also been elected to serve the common good and especially to my good friends who serve the Village of Lake Zurich I direct the following statement:

"Ladies and gentlemen please listen to the folks you serve. Abide by the results of your own

survey. Do not just consider how much additional tax revenues can be gained by annexing property into the Village of Lake Zurich. Do not allow politics to affect your judgment. Listen to the people you have been elected to serve. You have been doing a magnificent job. Continue to develop the downtown area with a kind and considerate attitude toward the individuals who have chosen to live in this community and join in our plan to give all our people what they want – more parks. We in the Township are not the enemy – we are your neighbors. When I was a young man my wants were few but there were times when my weekly allowance was not enough. A couple of times I had to go to my Dad and ask for a little extra but I never felt that I had the right to ask him to increase my allowance. I had enough respect for my Dad and I

was smart enough to realize that it was my responsibility to live within my allowance. We must learn not to play games with our neighbors because collectively they are smarter than we are and in this great country the people will win in the end. Please, please work with us for the common good."

I want to wish all our elected officials, the fantastic employees of Ela Township, the brave and steadfast policemen and firemen who serve us all, our citizens and their families, and the young folks in our community to whom we owe the future the happiest and most joyous of holiday seasons and a most productive and happy New Year.

God Bless us all.

Brian Burch
Parks & Recreation Committee Chair



From the Ela Township Assessor

Pamela J. Hoffman

My Fellow Americans, I want to start out by repeating a story written in the November 28, 2003, Lakeland Times from Minocqua, Wisconsin. This Holiday more that 130,000 military personnel will be spending Christmas in Iraq. That doesn't include those stationed in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia, Korea, and other parts of the world. The Mercer Support Group (Mercer, Wisconsin) for those with family or friends in the military is asking the community to show support for these young men and women by having a red, white and blue Holiday with yellow ribbons added to show those in service that we remember and we care about the sacrifices that they are making. Currently, Mercer has five young men serving in Iraq. However, before long there will be several more young men from the community heading to Iraq. When putting up your decorations,

consider adding a red, white and blue tree or wreath with yellow ribbons. The names of the men and women serving were in the article but I chose to omit them for privacy sake. What really got me about this article was the size of the town. According to the Mercer Chamber of Commerce the population is 1,342 people. From that population, 5 are serving in Iraq. How many men and women are serving from the Ela area and how can we find out? Is there something we can do to help them, or their families, while they are gone? I would be happy to help in any way I can. I was recently out of town and while listening to a band play, a group of about 10 Marines showed up. I went up to them and asked them where they were headed. I was told they were on a short leave from Iraq and would be going back. I shook their hands and gave them a hug and said thank you for all you do. I was amazed at the attention these young soldiers received. People bought them drinks, hugged

them, thanked them, and danced with them. The band played songs for them and acknowledged them over the microphone to all. It was awesome to witness such gratitude. I asked the Marines if they were getting phone cards purchased by the USO and they said they were. Here is the information. Operation Phone Home They have sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, and friends who are with them in spirit and silently supporting them from the other side of the world. But it would mean so much to our service members to be able to hear their voices. Far from home and loved ones, they are defending our flag and our freedom. The USO is working hard to bring "home" as close to them as possible. Please join us in Operation Phone Home, a campaign created to make it possible for Americans to extend this touch of home to the men and women of our armed forces. How to Donate to Operation Phone Home:

- via the USO website: <http://www.uso.org>
- by phone: 1-800-876-7469
- or send a check with "O.P.H." written on the memo line to:
USO World Headquarters
PO Box 96860
Washington, DC 20090-6860
If you are a corporation interested in making a large donation toward this campaign, logo branding on the phone cards is possible. For more information, please contact Tiffany Sefton, Coordinator of Corporate Giving, at 202-610-6484 or via e-mail at tsefton@uso.org. We're in this together; let's do what we can!
Happy Holidays!
Pamela J. Hoffman C.I.A.O.
Ela Township Assessor

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
Phone: 847.438.8370
Fax: 847.438.6880
Assessor's Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday:
8:00AM - 5:00PM
Friday: 8:00AM - 1:00PM

Township Officials of Lake County Elects VP

In order to better serve the people of Lake County, Township Officials of Lake County meet to exchange ideas to increase the efficiency of public officials. At November meeting, officers were elected, and our own Ela Township Assessor, Pamela J. Hoffman, was elected Vice-President. "I am excited about the challenge and getting involved with an active group that will benefit the taxpayers of Lake County," states Pamela J. Hoffman. We salute you, Pamela, and other hard-working people of our Township, who volunteer their time unselfishly to improve this community.

Recycle Christmas Trees at the Highway Department Garage

23605 N. Echo Lake Road
from December 26
to January 18.

Drop off your trees without
lights and decorations.

Any questions, please call
1-847-438-2371
Bill Kruckenberg
Ela Township Highway
Commissioner

March 19 Lake Zurich Fraternal Order of Police Dance and Banquet

Annual Lake Zurich Fraternal Order of Police Dance and Banquet will be held March 19, 2004, at the Concorde Banquet Hall. The fun evening will include a raffle with great prizes. All of

the raffle proceeds will support youth scholarships and donations to youth groups in our community. Tickets will be available at the Lake Zurich Police Department in January and also

in January a mailing will be sent out announcing the event. Ticket reservations will also be accepted at the Township Office, 99 E. Main Street, Lake Zurich, starting in January.

From the Township Bus Service

Bill Kruckenberg

Hello Ela Township Residents!

The Ela Township Highway Department recently purchased a new bus to replace our existing Township bus, which has been out of service since January due to mechanical problems. It is a 17-passenger bus, which seats two more than our Pace busses, and can fit 2 wheelchairs.

The ridership has gone up approximately 73% since February. To date we have had approximately 25 new riders. From the time the Bus Service has been working with the Highway Department, we have

managed to cut costs by almost \$1,000 per month by having our mechanics do all of the maintenance on the busses. This has also cut down the Township's cost per ride. It has gone down from \$7 in January to \$2.12 in November.

We would appreciate your input regarding the Pace Bus Service for senior and handicap residents. Below you will find a survey with a few questions rating the service that we are already providing. There is also a space for any questions and comments you may have for future service.

You can either:

Mail the completed survey to the Highway Department, 23605 North Echo Lake Road, Lake Zurich, IL 60047.

Drop it off in person at either the Highway Department or at the Senior Center at the Foglia YMCA.

Give it to any bus driver
E-mail it to KruckenbergEla@aol.com
Fax it to 847-438-0457

Thank you for your time and input. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Bill Kruckenberg
Ela Township Highway
Commissioner

ELA TOWNSHIP BUS SERVICE SURVEY

BUS SERVICE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Bus Scheduling (times, days)				
Bus Drivers (attitudes, helpfulness, etc.)				
Bus Dispatch (attitudes, helpfulness, etc.)				
Bus Timeliness (on time for appts.)				

COMMENTS (concerns, changes, etc.)

Thank you for completeing the survey which will help us achieve our goal of providing excellent bus service for the residents of Ela Township - Bill Kruckenberg, Ela Township Highway Commissioner. Fax number 847-438-0457

Ela Township Contact Details

elatownship@aol.com

TOWNSHIP OFFICE

847.438.7823

ELA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Supervisor Kimberly Tinerella

847.438.7823

E-mail: elatwpsupv@aol.com

Trustee Mimi Black

847.550.9411

Trustee Brian Burch

847.438.5468

E-mail: burch250@aol.com

Trustee David Knudtson

847.550.1233

E-mail:

dknudtson991@md.northwestern.edu

Trustee Michael Sullivan

847.438.7690

E-mail: muskie1@megsinet.net

ELA TOWNSHIP CLERK

Lucy Prouty, Town Clerk

847.438.7826

lucyproutyclerk@aol.com

Township Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday:

8:00AM – 5:00PM

Friday: 8:00AM - 4:00PM

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Pamela Hoffman, Assessor

847.438.8370

Email: pam_hoffman2000@yahoo.com

Assessor's Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday:

8:00AM – 5:00PM

Friday: 8:00AM – 1:00PM

The Township Office, is located at the intersection of Route 22 and Church/Midlothian Street. Address: 99 East Main Street, Lake Zurich, IL 60047

ELA TOWNSHIP

ROAD DISTRICT

Bill Kruckenberg,

Highway Commissioner

847.438.2371

Road District Hours:

Monday – Friday:

7:00AM – 3:30PM

23605 Echo Lake Road

Lake Zurich, IL 60047

ELA TOWNSHIP

SENIOR CENTER

Sue Neuschel,

Senior Program Director

847.438.9160

Senior Center Hours:

Monday – Friday:

8:00AM – 3:30PM

The Ela Township Senior Center is located at the Foglia YMCA (lower level). Address: 1025 Old McHenry Road, Lake Zurich, IL 60047

ELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH CENTER

Phil Carona,

Youth Director

847.652-6388

95 E. Main Street

Lake Zurich, IL 60047

DIAL-A-RIDE BUS SERVICE

847.438.6677

LOOK WHAT'S NEW UP IN “The Attic”

The attendance of the Youth Drop-In Center (better known as “The Attic”) has increased substantially during the month of November (up 40%). The majority of the students are coming Middle School North primarily because they can get here easily. The increase in attendance is also attributed to the popularity of a number of new programs and additional equipment, such as a PlayStation with some new games, as well as the success of two special events; a Super Smash Brothers and Air Hockey tournament, and a Brunswick Zone bowling trip. Participants have communicated that they enjoy the expanded options that we are now offering and I will continue survey-

ing them to determine other areas of interest.

On December 12th The Attic hosted a cooperative event sponsored in part with the Ela Area Library. The event will provide a creative opportunity for the participants to make their own Elf from provided art supplies. This will be the first of many cooperative initiatives that the Ela Township Youth Center will be offering.

I'm working together with the Ela Township Board to create short and long-term plans for the Youth Center. We will continue to emphasize the importance of strong school district support and cooperation to take this program to the next step. I will be working

with district #95 to address the transportation issues that will surface when Middle School North moves to Hawthorn Woods at the end of next month. Our goal is to increase convenience and accessibility for all students of Ela Township. Recognizing this, I am in the process of working closely with the Ela Township Board, specifically it's Youth committee, to address our challenges.

If anyone has any questions, or wishes to volunteer, or has any ideas about bringing quality programming to the Ela Township Youth Center, please do not hesitate to contact me at 847-652-6388.

Phil Carona

Ela Township Youth Director

Recycling a Success!

The Ela Township Highway Department's last recycling event for this year was held on Saturday, October 18th, 2003, and we had quite a turn out! There were approximately 80 residents who participated in the last recycling event for 2003, and the turn out we had for the whole year was outstanding!

We had a total of 308 residents who participated in the recycling program. We recycled a total of:

1,375 gallons of latex paint.

385 gallons of oil-based paint

770 gallons of motor oil. All the motor oil we received was brought to the Algonquin Township Highway

Department, where they use the oil to heat their buildings.

60 lead-acid batteries

6 five gallon buckets full of alkaline batteries (You can imagine how many “AA” batteries that is.)

8 truck loads of brush

Drop-off times for 2004 recy-

cling events are from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. noon, and the tentative dates for 2004 are:

Saturday, April 17, 2004

Saturday, May 15, 2004

Saturday, June 19, 2004

Saturday, July 17, 2004

Saturday, August 21, 2004

Saturday, September 18, 2004

Saturday, October 16, 2004

For those residents who have questions about the Ela Township recycling program can call the Highway Department office at 1-847-438-237 and ask to speak with Bill or Lesley.

Once again, I would like to thank all of residents for their overwhelming response and participation in the paint recycling program; you are the ones who have made this program such a success!

Sincerely,

Bill Kruckenberg

Ela Township Highway Commissioner

Township Board Meeting Dates & Times for 2004

Thursday, January 8

Thursday, February 12

Thursday, March 11

Thursday, April 8

Thursday, May 13

Thursday, June 10

Thursday, July 8

Thursday, August 12

Thursday, September 9

Thursday, October 14

Thursday, November 11

Thursday, December 9

All board meetings will be held at the Village of Lake Zurich's Board Meeting Room, located at 70 East Main Street, Lake Zurich, IL 60047. Meetings will begin at 7:30pm.

Annual Town Meeting, Tuesday, April 13, 2004, at 7 p.m. at the Ela Township Senior Center at the Foglia YMCA, 1024 S. Old McHenry Rd., Lake Zurich, IL 60047.



Our Very Best Wishes For A

Happy New Year



Ela Township Officials



(left to right) Brian Burch, Mimi Black, Bill Kruckenberg, Kimberly Tinerella, David Knudtson, Lucy Prouty, Mike Sullivan and Pamela Hoffman.

Ela Township
99 E. Main Street
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

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